



CONGRESSWOMAN

HELEN MEYNER



Public Works Funds Help

During the past few weeks, groundbreaking ceremonies have taken place for important public works projects in a number of communities in the 13th Congressional District. The projects, financed by the Public Works Employment Act of 1976, reveal an important fact: more of these funds are going to 13th District communities than any other district in New Jersey.

Projects in nine municipalities are receiving more than \$11 million in funds from the Act.

"Aside from financing important public facilities for the people of the communities involved, these groundbreaking ceremonies mean jobs — vital jobs," said Congresswoman Meyner, expressing the hope that more 13th District communities will benefit from similar legislation in 1977.

She pointed out that the Public Works Employment Act became law last summer, "only after a successful Congressional override of a Presidential veto."

"The success of this Act and its real meaning for the people of the 13th District is important in so many ways," Mrs. Meyner observed. "In addition to the obvious benefits, it shows that one voice in Congress can effectively work for his or her constituents in broad legislative areas."

Municipalities receiving public works employment funds:

Alexandria Twp. Board of Education	\$ 170,412
Butler Borough	2,033,010
Chester Borough	458,026
East Amwell Twp. Board of Education	600,000
Lambertville Board of Education	303,174
Lincoln Park Borough	3,419,876
Victory Gardens Borough	480,000
Washington Twp. M.U.A. (Morris Co.)	3,200,000
Wharton Borough Library	467,670

Picatinny Funds Will Help

A four-year-old drama came to a close last month when Clifford Alexander, Secretary of the Army, issued a statement declaring that his department saw no reason to change an earlier decision to close Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia.

Until this statement, there was the remote possibility that Frankford might maintain operations and upset Army plans for establishment of its Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM) at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover.

The closure of Frankford is an integral part of ARRADCOM plans, which was already underway last year. Then, a pledge by Vice President Walter Mondale to try to keep Frankford open caused some concern in the greater Picatinny community.



Vice-President Mondale & Mrs. Meyner discussing ARRADCOM

Congresswoman Meyner reported earlier this year that her conversations with the Vice-President indicated that ARRADCOM and Picatinny were secure.

This proved correct. Now, with approval of \$7.3 million in construction funds for ARRADCOM on the record, new employees are arriving on the scene. By the time ARRADCOM is fully operational, Picatinny will realize 1,000 new jobs, and millions of dollars in economic activity will be generated in the greater Picatinny community.

Congress/Carter/The First 100 Days

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

The end of April also marks the end of President Jimmy Carter's first 100 days in office. Ever since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt swept into the White House in March 1933 and launched action in a host of areas, political pundits and government observers have used the yardstick of the first 100 days as a barometer of the man and his program for action.

As a Member of Congress, Helen Meyner has to work with both President Carter and his programs. In some legislative areas the President has already proposed bold legislative steps, while in others his plans are still in the formulative stage.

HUMAN RIGHTS

"Human Rights. Finally, it seems to have 'caught on' as an issue," said Congresswoman Meyner in a statement last month.

A recognized Congressional leader in the fight to make human rights considerations an integral part of foreign policy, Mrs. Meyner was commenting on President Carter's policy initiatives in the area of human rights, including his firm position toward the Soviet Union and that country's treatment of dissidents.

Some observers have criticized the President for "going public" on human rights and recommended that traditional, more private, diplomatic channels are the best way to deal with the issue.

"But it's too late to consider this," said Mrs. Meyner. "Human rights are out in the open."

"I have mixed feelings about developments provoked by the Carter Administration's approach to human rights," she added. "I'm happy. Yes, I'm happy, but I also believe in a cautious, systematic approach to the problem at hand."

The Congresswoman noted that the "soft-peddling" of human rights takes place in many countries throughout the world, including nations that provide the United States and its allies with valuable raw materials.

"We cannot ignore the fact that an abrupt end to all friendly relations with these governments is not likely to improve the human rights situation in these countries," she said. "The question is: What now? We must do

something. . . We have to integrate human rights concerns into our foreign policy calculations in a systematic way."

"Let's move step-by-step," Mrs. Meyner urged, "realizing that the vision of a world that respects human dignity and human rights is far too noble a cause to ignore."

CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION

At a January reception with Members of Congress attended by Mrs. Meyner, President Carter said that Pennsylvania Avenue — which connects the White House with Capitol Hill — "is a two-way street."



Congresswoman Meyner and the President at a reception.

For the most part, the actions of the first 100 days show that Congress and the President can work effectively together.

Though the rules and procedures of the House of Representatives favor a cautious and deliberate approach to legislative problems, it was able to take great strides in certain areas and plan for action in others.

In record time, both the House and Senate passed the Emergency Natural Gas Act, which helped to ease the critical shortage of natural gas this past winter. And the House has already approved a new jobs bill to complement the 1976 Public Works Employment Act.

A new, tough code of ethics for Members of Congress is already a reality; and the House completed action last month on a comprehensive economic stimulus package, including numerous tax reform elements.

Women's Issues/People's Issues

When President Carter's massive energy and conservation program reaches the House of Representatives, it will be handled by a special committee established by the Speaker of the House, "Tip" O'Neill. This will help eliminate the problem of overlapping committee jurisdiction that plagued previous efforts aimed at developing a broad-based energy policy in Congress.

THE PAY RAISE

Of all the issues that captured public attention in the first 100 days, the \$12,900 pay raise for Members of Congress and certain, high-ranking federal officials emerged as the top attention-getter. Not only is the raise more than most Americans make in a single year; the House of Representatives didn't even vote on the issue.

"I'm sorry about this," said Congresswoman Meyner at the time. "When people in my own District can't even afford to pay their heating bills, how can I, in good conscience tell them I deserve a \$12,900 pay raise."

So, Congresswoman Meyner is not accepting the pay raise. Instead, she's giving it to charity. And she also supported legislation requiring future Congresses to take a recorded vote on pay raises.

HELPING WOMEN (AND MEN)

As one of just 18 women in Congress, Mrs. Meyner is particularly concerned about those issues of particular interest to women. But she doesn't confine the definition of so-called "women's issues."

"It's just the 18 of us realize that if we don't articulate key issues well, and that if we don't press for these issues, then it will be even longer before all Americans realize that 'womens issues' are also 'peoples issues'," she said recently, "because men as well as women stand to benefit from the programs that stem from our concerns."

Helen Meyner is among the most active Members of Congress on behalf of women's or people's issues.

Along with others in the House of Representatives, she is sponsoring a bill to provide aid for displaced homemakers. Why? "Just think of all the women — widows, mothers who've raised families, divorced women — who find themselves at middle age with no

security, no skills outside of the home, no job training and no profession," observed Mrs. Meyner. "Federal assistance for job-training, career counseling, continuing education, would help these people. It would help them become productive, contributing and, yes, taxpaying citizens."

This proposal, and a number of others, were discussed last month during a special luncheon meeting



Rosalynn Carter meets Mrs. Meyner at luncheon.

Congresswoman Meyner arranged for the women in Congress and First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

Both Mrs. Carter and the bipartisan group of Congresswomen found the meeting useful and informative.

"I'm more encouraged than ever over the prospect of the women in Congress working closely with the First Lady to advance the cause of what we call women's issues," said Mrs. Meyner of the meeting. "Never before has a President's wife met with women Members of Congress at the Capitol, or in a working session to discuss issues with women members."

"It showed all of us, Democrats and Republicans alike, that there are areas of common concern, where we can work together to help not only women, but men and women alike," she added.

Helping People/Getting Help

CONSTITUENT PROBLEMS

The bureaucracy all too often creates bottle necks. Paperwork piles up; mismanagement and delays are often the result. Often, an inquiry to a federal agency from your Congresswoman can alleviate much of the red tape involved.

Are your social security checks continually late? Are you having trouble getting your GI educational benefits? Are your unemployment checks late? Is a relative having immigration problems?

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, a letter to Congresswoman Meyner's office will initiate immediate action on your behalf. When you do write, it is important to be as specific as possible, remembering to include all pertinent information (i.e., social security number, VA claim number, FHA claim number). If your problem is especially complicated, please send copies of all relevant documents.

Once your letter reaches Washington, it will be acknowledged and you will be kept informed of what is being done for you. Some problems can be resolved in a relatively short period of time. Others, like social security disability cases, may take a bit longer.

REQUESTS FOR PUBLICATIONS

Mrs. Meyner's office has access to a limited number of publications printed by the federal government. Many of

these publications are free, although some require a small charge. When you need a particular publication, it would be helpful to be as specific as possible.

If you are in need of general information on a subject, her office can often help there, too. Through the Library of Congress and other federal agencies, it is possible to gather information on almost any imaginable topic.

LEGISLATIVE MAIL

Congresswoman Meyner is anxious to hear constituents' views on legislative matters. If you feel strongly about a particular bill — or if you just want information on that bill — please write. Nothing reflects the true feeling of a constituent better than an individual letter. And Congresswoman Meyner reads and answers every piece of mail that reaches her office.

Remember that your opinion is important. It *helps*. In Mrs. Meyner's office, as in most Congressional offices, legislative mail is reviewed carefully. The fact that constituents took the time to write their Congressman about a particular bill can have an effect when that bill reaches the floor of the House. If a Member of Congress has not yet made up his or her mind about an issue, well-argued letters may be decisive.

As well, if you're interested in knowing what Helen Meyner thinks about the issues and would like to be placed on her mailing list, please write and let her know.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

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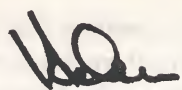
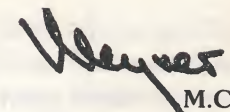
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